

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 06948 131625Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
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C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 6948

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TECH IN
SUBJECT: TARAPUR

REF: STAE 107344

1. THE CHARGE CONVEYED THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH DECISION ON TARAPUR TO MEA SECRETARY VELLODI (FOREIGN SECRETARY MEHTA IS IN LONDON) ON MAY 13 IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTEL. HE LEFT A "NON-PAPER" WHICH SUMMARIZED THE PRICIPAL ELEMENTS OF THE DECISION.

2. IN REPLY VELLODI EXPLORED VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF THE DECISION. HE WAS CURIOUS ABOUT THE ALTERATION OF THE COMPOSITION OF THE SHIPMENT WHICH AHD BEEN RECOMMENDED TO THE NRC; THE CHARGE INDICATED HE HAD NO FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT BUT THAT THE DETAILS WOULD BE DISCUSSED WITH THE INDIAN EMBASSY SOON. VELLODI SPECULATED ABOUT WHAT ACTION THE NRC MIGHT TAKE, RECOGNIZING THAT IT HAD THE AUTHORITY TO MAKE AN INDEPENDENT DESISION. I REGARD TO A VISIT BY A SENIOR INDIAN OFFICIAL TO WASHINGTON, VELLODI SAID THE FOREIGN SECRETARY HAD ALREADY DISCUSSED A VISIT BY SOME INDIAN OFFICIAL WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER (MEA PASSED ON TO US INFORMALLY ON MAY 12 THAT IT WAS AGREEABLE TO SUCH A VISIT BUT THAT THE FOREIGN SECRETARY WOULD
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CONFIRM FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM LONDON). VELLODI CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT HE WOULD TAKE THE MATTER UP WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER RIGHT AWAY AND INFORM THE EMBASSY OF THE INDIAN DECISION REGARDING NEGOTIATIONS ON TARAPUR AND NONPROLIFERATION.

3. COMMENT: WHILE VELLODI WAS CURIOUS ABOUT A CHANGE IN THE CONPOSITION OF THE INTERIM SHIPMENT, WE DO NOT BELIEVE HE

UNDERSTANDS THAT THE RESULT MAY BE THAT INDIA WILL BE UNABLE TO FABRICATE COMPLETED ASSEMBLIES. AS WE BELIEVE THE GOI MAY BE CONCERNED IF THIS IS IN FACT THE RESULT WE CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT THE THEY BE INFORMED OF THE TECHNICAL DETAILS PROMPTLY SO THAT THEIR DECISION WILL BE TAKEN WITH THE FULL FACTS IN HAND.

4. VELLODI ASKED ABOUT THE BEST TIMING OF A VISIT BY A SENIOR OFFICIAL. WE BELIEVE OUR INTERESTS WILL BE BEST SERVED IF THE OFFICIAL IS THE FOREIGN SECRETARY RATHER THAN VELLODI. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE, HOWEVER, IS QUITE FULL IN THE WEEKS AHEAD. HE WILL BE BACK FROM LONDON ON JUNE 21 NAD WILL REMAIN IN DLEHI ONLY A WEEK BEFORE RETURNING TO LONDON FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PRIME MINISTERS CONFERENCE. BEFORE LEAVING HE HAD THOUGHT THE EARLIEST TIME HE COULD VISIT WASHINGTON WOULD BE ON JUNE 16 FOLLOWING THE LONDON MEETING. AT THAT TIME HE RULED OUT VISITING WASHINGTON IN THE WEEK BETWEEN LONDON CONFERENCES. WE REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE REGARDING THE URGENCY OF AN INDIAN VISIT.
SCHNEIDER

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